

UPSTAIRS CLUB

Volume 3 - October 10, 1961. Chicago, Illinois

An Educational Group.

SUMMERTIME is a busy hectic time in the school with three times as many classes - many out of town students and teachers - vacationing visitors - summer theatres and the Trade Fair...COL. EDDIE GIBSON with wife SANDY were one of the best surprises...here on a short visit before being transferred to France for three years...SANDY was the original "Nelly Bly" in 'Frankie & Johnnie" and no one who ever danced the part after was nearly as good...she was also part of the act - "Danse Classique" a vaudeville act during depression days with HARRIET LUNDGREN, TERRY RUDOLPH & STONE & CAMRYN...Now SANDY is a Colonel's wife...TERRY RUDOLPH is the foremost trainer of Ice skaters at Garmisch Germany...HARRIET has retired from teaching and you know about S & C...RUTH PRYOR of the same period was a summer visitor looking younger than ever and full of plans for her school in Cleveland Ohio...TONI ZIERNICKI now an interior decorator in New York stopt off to visit on his way for a vacation in Wyoming...CLARENCE JAY DEVLIN home to see his family was in for a few classes and hunting old faces...he has been making a career of the "Littliest Circus" which now has plans for a European tour...friends in the studio of ELSIE HAMILTON were alarmed and concerned about her very serious operation this summer during July...June brought important graduations that will affect our future programs...JOHN NEUMEIER graduated from Marquette and expects to be called into service before very long...KAREN KRYCH graduated from High School and worked in the "Kansas Story" for MISS PAGE...TONI KUTYNA has decided to go to the University of Montana this fall and is giving up dance...JOAN MANSFIELD will attend the San Francisco College for Women and expects to study in San Francisco this fall...remember MICHAEL FINNEGAN? He graduated in California last June...PEGGY POWELL married Lt.Craig Morgan of the U.S. Air Force

after leaving the Chicago Opera Ballet last spring...JOAN PETLAK is in Las Vegas getting a divorce while working in the night club version of "Gypsy"...in summer theatre here JAMES MOORE received top reviews in "Showboat"...COLLEEN KELLY had the part of "Muriel" in "Take Me Along" at Melody Lane...played it charmingly and very successfully...FRUMETH HIRSH was in "Anything Goes"...BONNIE MATHIS worked in the Radio City Music Hall ballet this summer...MARLENE LUSTIG also from Milwaukee worked Music Theatre and will go to New York this fall to try her wings...KATHY POSIN went to New London this summer to study...she graduated this year and will attend Bennington College this fall...LAURIEL PARKER spent her summer up at Jacobs Pillow...GORDANA ARSENEYVICH lost her father recently and will not return to school in Florida this fall...HALGA SCHULZ returned from her study in Berlin Germany earlier than she had planned because of the crisis there...POLLY HARDING is said to be wandering around Europe on a bicycle with no dance study...GILDO DI NUNZIO will be the dance captain of yet another company of "Music Man" now forming...one of the brighter summer parties was given by BILL GARY at the home of his sister and brother in law - MARGE & BILL ANDERSON'S...guests included ANN BARZEL, MAURICE & MARYA, JOHN KRIZA, RUTH ANN KOESUN, ASTA NELSON, HILDUR NELSON, ELSIE STIGLER, JERRE BERRINGTON and STONE & CAMRYNsummer school drew its usual crowd from all over the country ...largest contingent was the Ohio group lead by MYRL LAURENCE and PHYLLIS GAMBOE ...NANCY BAUER attended the last week on her way back from Japan..BRIAN, KEVIN AND SHIRLEY PETERMAN from Vancouver BC were back again and are now very definitely part of the family...MARY CAROL COCKEY of North Carolina was back for the early part of the season...SHARON LUNDIN & PATTI GARNER made great strides in their work...PATRICIA KELLAR from Milwaukee chaperoned a group of Milwaukee youngsters...HARRY BUSCK now has his own business dealing in out of print books...operating from his

home at 710 North Humphrey in Oak Park...rumors had it that PAT MC ENERNEY was taking the Summer Course at Martha Graham's in NY...JOAN EHEMANN is opening her own school this fall on the north side of Chicago with the very dramatic name of "Lyric School of The Dance" - there is precious little that is lyric about those first few years of teaching...on the last day of the Summer Course Mr. C flew to Philadelphia to teach for the National DMA...HELEN JONES & JESSIE WHALEY from Chattanooga demonstrated for him... both promise to visit Chicago during the next year...after a few days in Philly Mr. C. returned to Chicago to join Mr. S. on a ten day trip to Gatlinburg Tennessee where they gathered a bit of sunshine and rest...would have stayed longer but Mr. S. had to leave for Boston where he taught for 4 days for the Boston Teacher's Society...then he went up to Jacob's Pillow to see RUTH ANN KOESUN & IVAN ALLEN dance...he then had a crowded 4 days in New York City visiting the many SC alumni now there...which almost now amounts to a colony...one of the things. Mr. S. seemed to enjoy the most was seeing MARGARET CRASKE again...remember the summer we had her with us at the RKO Grand...MARGARET is still going strong but the Grand is now a parking lot...September began with a whirl of news which has delayed this issue...MARIE CHIAPPE MURPHY in town a few days - expecting again - her eighth this time...also on the expecting list in New York...The BROWNS - the SHARPS - and the NOTARAS...BILL REILLY will be back from Europe the end of the month and following the NY performances of the Robbins Ballets USA will be home for a spell...JOHN SHARPE had a busy summer as choreographer in Summer Theatre in New Brunswick Maine... PATRICK HEIM & DEBORAH PODORE were his soloists...JOHN now busy assisting MICHAEL KIDD in a new show "Subways are for Sleeping" which has a fall opening...maybe in Chicago...DARRELL NOTARA is in "How to succeed in business without really trying"...KELLY BROWN has a string of appearances in "On the Town" and "Once upon a Mattress"...KAROLY BARTA is in the Herbert Ross show "The Gay Life"...RICHARD LYLE is in "Keane"...KAREN KRYCH NY's newest acquisition

from SC is now in Ballet Theatre...we hear that BILL MALONEY is to be with the Metropolitan Opera Ballet this coming season...CHARLES BENNETT has left the NY City Ballet and is planning a concert of his own choreography to be given in November...he has been encouraged and assisted in his efforts by Carmalita Marrucci...another bit of late news is the announcement of PATRICK CUMMINGS wedding in St. Louis October 9th...the honeymoon is to be spent working in "Music Man" in Milwaukee...here in Chicago JAMES MOORE has had an enormous success in that old time revival of "Leave it to Jane" - he has the part of Stub Talmadge and does a wonderful job - performing with vitality - humor and charm...JOAN CONRATH is here with "Bye Bye Birdie" at the Erlanger... little ILONA PODSADA has been signed for the Magic Door Television series...Shortly before the rehearsals for the Lyric Opera were to begin Uncle Sam reached out and took JAMES MORSKI...DOLORES LIPINSKY is back at the Lyric and the Chicago Ballet Company as a soloist...CHARLES SCHICK will again be back as a soloist with FRUMETH HIRSH, ANN BRADFORD and SHARON LUNDIN in the corps...DEAN DIGGINS has been back at the Palmer House for the fourth time - early in October the Mattison Trio of which he is a part will fly to Rome Italy for a three month television show...YOLANDA SALLA spent most of the summer on business in San Francisco... while there she saw several performances of the Tamalpais Valley Players presenting Shakespeare...they are directed by CLIFF BADGER with KIM BADGER among the players...you may remember KIM as KIM MICHELL at the RKO...JOE KAMINSKI has been engaged again by Father Blackburn of Dubuque Iowa to stage the dances for "The King and I" ...those who were part of the old CHILDREN'S CIVIC THEATRE at Navy Pier and Thorne Hall lost one of their very best friends with the death of MRS. PAT VOGELBACH of cancer early in August...long, after the City's Mayor killed the CCT Mrs. Vogelbach kept an active interest in the young talents that had their beginnings in that group...no book in years has had so many readers in the school than the MICHAEL FOKINE biography and it is one of the few that has been well worth the time it takes to read it...at the very last moment we hear that DONNA MILLER has joined the cast of "Medium Rare"...the first SC BALLET program of the year will

be the first of a series of programs in Glenview...they will be sharing the series with Cornelia Otis Skinner, Byron Janis and the play the "Potting Shed" ...rehearsals are at the maddening point now...it is hoped the program will be repeated for the general public in December or January.

AN ANSWER.

During a years time the school receives many "What do you think of my daughter?" letters. Most parents expect too much too soon. Many aspects are to be considered to be fair to the pupil and at the same time be honest to the parent. Here is a recent letter written by Mr. Stone to a mother stating the school's policy and it might at the same time answer other parent's questions.

DEAR PARENT-

Your problem is in common with all parents and has as usual many answers in divergence. Children have now, a most amazing desire to be what is known as a ballerina. This longing replaces the same glamorous idea as the early motion picture stars had on our generation. One of the reasons this school does not make a practice of teaching the acknowledged ballet classics is to prevent, if possible, the image growth of, ballerina, in young girls of fifteen and sixteen. I have known many of these unfortunates who have remained frozen in an idea until they were fifty years old, or better. Actually the term ballerina is an honorary reward made in state schools and Ballet Companies for long service and general excellence, a title rarely if ever given to youth, and not a matter at all of tulle, glitter or spot lights. I loathe the way the word is used so loosely in America.

I am not in favor of girls and never boys going into professional dance unless they possess remarkable bodies and a great dedication to back breaking work. The girls do have an out in marriage, but the boy must have the kind of passion that finds its virtue through the work, and not necessarily through public acclaim. Education beyond and along with dance cannot be ignored for the world problems do

not leave the dancer alone. This takes a very special person. The world of dance has many avenues of approach, teaching, directing, choreography are all more secure for a life time than a career dancer. However, as against all this I find it a virtue when a young girl, like your child, finds a dedication in dance -- for she the individual must make her own self discipline to gain even the rudiments of the technique. This gives a premise of security to the individual no matter what road of expression he or she may assume.

As for your child, I think it would be unfair to make a prognosis about her. She has not had nearly enough work, nor any of that continuous. Daily work counts when a student reaches the teen age. However, I can say, she has not an ideal body for ballet. She will always have to fight for a turn-out of the legs. This achieved, one knows nothing of her projection for the stage. I do not mean this all in a discouraging sense, but only to assure you she will have to work very hard. However, some of the best dancers have overcome all this, so one never can say for sure anything about the development of the young.

Sincerely, Bentley Stone.

* * * * *

THE INFLUENCE OF A GREAT TEACHER.

ADOLPH BOLM, a world renowned dancer, choreographer, and a creative and inspirational teacher of the dance died in Hollywood California ten years ago last spring. With his passing the art of the dance lost a great and good friend; most especially here in Chicago where much of his work was centered. Those of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with him, wish to renew our tribute to the memory of a sensitive and honest artist. His ideas and hopes were our inheritance which we are duty bound to carry on for him. He gave us all so much that we must pass onto others. For many years Mr. Bolm was a directing force in this city in art and the dance. Some of you will not know his whole story, but all of you come directly under his influence in the art of the dance. Although he awakened love of art in all his pupils, his honesty as a teacher is manifest in the various directions his pupils took without losing the original impulse for movement. Pupils of his in the Chicago area include - RUTH PAGE, EDNA Mc RAE, BERENICE HOLMES,

EDNA LUCILE BAUM, MARK TURBYFILL, LEE FOLEY, ANN BARZEL, HARRIET LUNDGREN, VINCENZO CELLI, ANNA LUDMILLA, JORG FASTING, WALTER CAMRYN, BENTLEY STONE and many others too numerous to mention. Now that we have such a fine book about MICHAEL FOKINE -- why not one about ADOLPH BOLM?

"THE ART SPIRIT"

It becomes very difficult to find material or to get anyone to write material that is instructive for the Bulletin. I am reduced at this time to borrowing from one of the great art teachers of America - Robert Henri. Being passionately interested in character work I have always had a great appreciation for portraits of this great American artist. Do you know those two charming old folks called "Himself" and "Herself" in the Art Institute? The teaching of one art is no different from the teaching of another and one of the great problems of all teachers is to make a student realize how important a peripheral knowledge can be.

Walter Camryn

On "Individuality and Freedom in Art."

It seems to me that before a man tries to express anything to the world he must recognize in himself an individual, a new one, very distinct from others. Walt Whitman did this, and that is why I think his name so often comes to me. The one great cry of Whitman was for a man to find himself, to understand the fine thing he really is if liberated. Most people, either by training or inheritance, count themselves at the start as "no good," or "second rate" or "just like anyone else", whereas in everyone there is the great mystery; every single person in the world has evidence to give of his own individuality, providing he has acquired the full power to make clear this evidence.

Twachtman was one of the men in America who could see the greatness of life about him. It chanced that he lived in Connecticut and saw it there, but he would have found it in Spain or France or Russia, and had he gone to paint in those countries his art would have still been American. To me Twachtman is one of the giants in America. He got at the essential beauty of his environment and developed for himself a matchless technique. It is

thus that art history must grow. There is no one recipe for this making of American artists, beyond affording to the men who have the gift the opportunity for supreme development and the right expression of it.

For instance, contrast the work of Twachtman and Winslow Homer. The same scene presented by these two men would be not an identical geographical spot but an absolutely different expression of personality. Twachtman saw the seas bathed in mists, the rocks softened with vapor. Homer looked straight through the vapor at the hard rock; he found in the leaden heaviness a most tremendously forceful idea. It was not sea or rock to either of these men, but their own individual attitude toward the beauty or the force of nature. Each man must take the material he finds at hand, see that in it there are the big truths in life, the fundamentally big forces and then express in his art what is the cause of his pleasure. It is not so much the actual place or immediate environment; it is personal greatness and personal freedom which demands a final right art expression. A man must be master of himself and master of his work to achieve the full realization of himself as an artist. -Robert Henri-

FROM A DANCER'S SCRAPBOOK.

A person who lacks the means, within himself, to live a good and happy life will find any period of his existence wearisome.

-Cicero.

Great deeds are not done by strength or speed or physique; they are the products of thought, and character, and judgment.

-Cicero

Man's life is a day. What is he?
What is he not? A shadow in a dream
Is man, but when God sheds a brightness,
Shining light is on earth,
And life is sweet as honey.

-Pindar

The wise never grow old; their minds are nursed by living with the holy light of day.

-Sophocles.